



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 2774
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Testimony Presented Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2006

by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Testimony for
House Bill 2774

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Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the University of Hawai'i to provide input to the decision-making process on House Bill 2774, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) for agricultural research and market development.

I support HB2774. Both agricultural research and market development are essential to the success of diversified agriculture in Hawai'i. The knowledge gained through research efforts helps producers boost their yields through informed choices about which crops and varieties to plant, when and where to plant them, how to protect them from pests, and how to optimize postharvest quality. Market development complements research by expanding the base of consumers that know and value Hawai'i's agricultural products. Bigger yields and broader markets mean increased profits and a greater contribution to Hawai'i's economy.

The Farm Bureau is an important voice for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers. HFBF works closely with CTAHR and other collaborators, including the Hawaii Agriculture Resource Center (HARC), the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. Together, these organizations and agencies cooperate on research projects to improve the production of Hawai'i crops. We complement each other's efforts, minimizing overlap and assuring the broadest range of research assistance to the agricultural community. The funds described in HB2774 will be managed by the HFBF to facilitate commodities research and create new local, national, and international marketing opportunities for our agricultural goods.

For these reasons, I support HB2774. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.